

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A mutual rating system ~~for rating~~ in which a user rates an object associated with a network, comprising:

a plurality of rating information storing terminal devices connected to the network, each rating information storing terminal device having stored therein rating information related to an object previously rated by ~~the user~~ other users; and

~~at least one or more~~ rating information collecting terminal ~~devices~~ device for collecting rating information related to a desired object from ~~one or more~~ at least one online rating information storing terminal ~~devices~~ device,

wherein ~~each~~ said at least one rating information collecting terminal device includes a rating analyzing section operable to analyze the rating information collected from said ~~one or more~~ at least one online rating information storing terminal ~~devices~~ device ~~to obtain a rating and to present an analysis result~~ for the desired object to a user operating said at least one rating information collecting terminal device.

2. (Currently Amended) The mutual rating system according to claim 1, further comprising ~~one or more~~ at least one content providing terminal ~~devices~~ each device having content stored therein and transmitting the content on demand,

wherein ~~each~~ said at least one rating information collecting terminal device further includes a content demanding section operable to demand ~~a~~ said at least one content providing terminal device having ~~the~~ desired content stored therein to transmit the desired content.

3. (Currently Amended) The mutual rating system according to claim 2,

wherein ~~each~~ said at least one rating information storing terminal device further includes a download history storing section having stored therein a communication history of content downloaded from said at least one ~~or more~~ content providing terminal ~~devices~~ device,

wherein ~~each~~ said at least one rating information collecting terminal device further includes a communication history collecting section operable to, when demanding said at least one ~~or more~~ content providing terminal ~~devices~~ device to transmit the desired content, collect a communication history related to said at least one ~~or more~~ content providing terminal

~~devices~~device stored in said at least one online rating information storing terminal ~~device~~devices, and

wherein ~~the~~said rating analyzing section analyzes the communication history collected by ~~the~~said communication history collecting section to determine whether to download the desired content from ~~a~~said at least one content providing terminal device having the desired content stored therein.

4. (Currently Amended) The mutual rating system according to claim 3,

wherein ~~the~~said download history storing section stores the communication history so as to be associated with content types, and

wherein ~~the~~said rating analyzing section refers to the content types to determine whether to demand content transmission.

5. (Currently Amended) The mutual rating system according to claim 2,

wherein ~~said at least one or more~~ content providing terminal ~~devices~~device ~~each include~~ includes an upload history storing section into which a communication history of content uploaded to ~~the~~said at least one rating information collecting terminal ~~devices~~ device is stored, and

wherein ~~said at least one or more~~ content providing terminal ~~devices~~ each ~~determine~~device determines whether to perform content upload based on the communication history stored in ~~the~~said upload history storing section.

6. (Currently Amended) The mutual rating system according to claim 5,

wherein ~~the~~said upload history storing section stores the communication history so as to be associated with content types, and

wherein ~~said at least one or more~~ content providing terminal ~~devices~~ each ~~refer~~device refers to the content types to determine whether to perform the content upload.

7. (Currently Amended) The mutual rating system according to claim 2,

wherein ~~each~~ said at least one rating information collecting terminal device further

includes:

a rating information input section operable to cause, after the completion of download of the desired content, the user to input rating information related to at least one of said at least one or more content providing ~~terminal~~terminal and/or content providers of the desired content, and to store the inputted rating information; and

a rating information feeding back section operable to feed back the rating information stored by ~~the~~said rating information input section to other rating information collecting terminal devices and rating information storing terminal devices on the network, and

wherein each rating information storing terminal device further includes a fed back rating information storing section which uses a prescribed technique to analyze the rating information fed back from the rating information feeding back section, and stores the analyzed rating information.

8. (Currently Amended) The mutual rating system according to claim 1,

wherein ~~each~~said at least one rating information collecting terminal device further includes a rating information storing section having stored therein ~~the~~ rating information related to ~~the~~ objects previously rated by the user, and

wherein each rating information storing terminal device further includes:

a rating information collecting section operable to collect the rating information related to the desired object from said at least one or more online rating information collecting terminal ~~devices~~device; and

a collected rating information analyzing section operable to analyze the rating information collected by the rating information collecting section to obtain a rating for the desired object.

9. (Currently Amended) A rating information collecting terminal device for ~~obtaining rating information related to an~~ object associated with a network to which a plurality of rating information storing terminal devices are connected, each rating information storing terminal device having stored therein rating information related to objects previously rated by ~~the user~~other users, ~~the~~said rating information collecting terminal device comprising:

a rating information collecting section operable to collect rating information related to a desired object from at least one or more online rating information storing terminal devices~~device~~; and

a rating analyzing section operable to analyze the rating information collected by ~~the said~~ rating information collecting section to obtain a rating~~present an analysis result~~ for the desired object to a user operating said rating information collecting terminal device.

10. (Currently Amended) The rating information collecting terminal device according to claim 9, wherein ~~the said~~ rating information collecting section collects the rating information from said at least one or more-rating information storing terminal ~~devices~~device only when a prescribed condition is satisfied.

11. (Currently Amended) The rating information collecting terminal device according to claim 9, wherein ~~the said~~ rating information collecting section collects the rating information from ~~all the said~~ at least one online rating information storing terminal ~~devices~~device.

12. (Currently Amended) The rating information collecting terminal device according to claim 9, wherein ~~the said~~ rating information collecting section collects the rating information from a specific rating information storing terminal.

13. (Previously Presented) The rating information collecting terminal device according to claim 9, wherein the object is a user on the network, an online terminal device, or content stored in the online terminal device.

14. (Currently Amended) The rating information collecting terminal device according to claim 9, further comprising a reliability information storing section having stored therein reliability information which indicates reliabilities of at least one of ~~the said~~ rating information storing terminal devices and/or rating information providers present on the network, wherein when obtaining a rating result, ~~the said~~ rating information analyzing section refers to ~~the~~ reliability information stored in ~~the~~ reliability information storing section and prioritizes rating

information provided by at least one of highly reliable rating information storing terminal devices and/or highly reliable rating information providers.

15. (Currently Amended) The rating information collecting terminal device according to claim 14, wherein ~~the said~~ rating information analyzing section uses weighting coefficients assigned as the reliabilities to the reliability information to obtain a weighted average, and thereby to obtain the rating result.

16. (Currently Amended) The rating information collecting terminal device according to claim 9, further comprising a content demanding section operable to demand transmission of desired content from at least one ~~or more~~ content providing terminal ~~devices~~ device connected to the network, ~~each said at least one~~ content providing terminal device having content stored therein and transmitting the content on demand.

17. (Currently Amended) The rating information collecting terminal device according to claim 16, wherein ~~the said~~ content demanding section automatically demands content transmission from said at least one ~~or more~~ content providing terminal ~~devices~~ device based on a rating result obtained by ~~the said~~ rating analyzing section.

18. (Currently Amended) The rating information collecting terminal device according to claim 16, further comprising a download history storing section to which a communication history of content downloaded from said at least one ~~or more~~ content providing terminal ~~devices~~ device, wherein ~~the said~~ content demanding section determines whether to demand content transmission based on the communication history stored in ~~the said~~ download history storing section.

19. (Currently Amended) The rating information collecting terminal device according to claim 18,

wherein ~~the said~~ download history storing section stores the communication history so as to be associated with content types, and

wherein ~~the said~~ content demanding section refers to the content types to determine whether to demand the content transmission.

20. (Currently Amended) The rating information collecting terminal device according to claim 16, further comprising a rating information input section operable to cause, after ~~the completion of completing~~ download of the desired content, the user to input rating information related to at least one of said at least one or more content providing terminal ~~devices~~ device and/or content providers of the desired content, and to store the inputted rating information.

21. (Currently Amended) The rating information collecting terminal device according to claim 20, further comprising a rating information feeding back section operable to feed back the rating information stored by ~~the said~~ rating information input section to other rating information collecting terminal devices and other rating information storing terminal devices present on the network.

22. (Currently Amended) The rating information collecting terminal device according to claim 21, wherein ~~the said~~ rating information feeding back section transmits the rating information stored by ~~the said~~ rating information input section to ~~all the said other~~ online rating information collecting terminal devices and ~~all the said other~~ online rating information storing terminal devices.

23. (Currently Amended) The rating information collecting terminal device according to claim 21, wherein ~~the said~~ rating information feeding back section transmits the rating information stored by ~~the said~~ rating information input section only to at least one of a specific rating information collecting terminal device and/or a specific rating information storing terminal device.

24. (Currently Amended) The rating information collecting terminal device according to claim 23, wherein ~~the said~~ rating information feeding back section transmits the rating information stored by ~~the said~~ rating information input section to at least one of said other rating

information collecting terminal devices and ~~or said other~~ rating information storing terminal devices which have returned rating information in response to a demand to transmit the rating information.

25. (Currently Amended) The rating information collecting terminal device according to claim 23, wherein ~~the said~~ rating information feeding back section transmits the rating information stored by ~~the said~~ rating information input section to at least one of said other rating information collecting terminal devices and ~~or said other~~ rating information storing terminal devices which have returned rating information, which is different from the rating information stored by ~~the said~~ rating information input section, in response to a demand to transmit the rating information.

26. (Previously Presented) The rating information collecting terminal device according to claim 21, further comprising a rating information updating section operable to update the rating information stored therein based on rating information fed back from another rating information collecting terminal device.

27. (Previously Presented) The rating information collecting terminal device according to claim 21, further comprising a fed back information transmitting section operable to transmit rating information, which has been fed back from another rating information collecting terminal device, to still another rating information collecting terminal device.

28. (Previously Presented) The rating information collecting terminal device according to claim 20, further comprising a content rating information input section operable to cause, after reproduction of the desired content, the user to input rating information related to the desired content, and to store the inputted rating information.

29. (Previously Presented) The rating information collecting terminal device according to claim 9, wherein the rating information indicates rating points for the objects.

30. (Currently Amended) The rating information collecting terminal device according to claim 9, wherein the rating information indicates a distribution of the rating points for the objects.

31. (Currently Amended) A mutual rating system ~~for rating in which a user rates~~ an object associated with a network, comprising:

a plurality of terminal devices each being connected to the network and having stored therein rating information related to objects previously rated by ~~the user~~ other users,

wherein each terminal device includes:

a rating information collecting section operable to collect the rating information from other online terminal devices; and

a rating analyzing section operable to analyze the rating information collected by ~~the said~~ rating information collecting section to ~~obtain a rating~~ present an analysis result for a desired object to a user operating said rating information collecting terminal device.

32. (Currently Amended) A rating information obtaining program, which is a computer program recorded on a computer-readable recording medium included in a terminal device, executed by ~~at the~~ terminal device ~~for obtaining rating for a user to rate~~ information related to an object associated with a network to which a plurality of rating information storing terminal devices are connected, each rating information storing terminal device having stored therein rating information related to objects previously rated by ~~the user~~ other users, wherein the rating information obtaining program is for causing the terminal device to perform the steps of execute at least the following:

collecting rating information related to a desired object from at least one or more online rating information storing terminal ~~devices~~ device; and

analyzing the collected rating information to ~~obtain a rating~~ present an analysis result for the desired object to a user operating a rating information collecting terminal device.